

DEC 21 1921

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"THE LITTLE MINISTER"

Photoplay in ~~seven~~^{six} reels

✓ From the story by James M. Barrie

Scenario by C. Graham Baker and Harry Dittmar

Directed by David Smith

Author of the photoplay (under Sec. 62)
Vitagraph Co. of America of the U. S.

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"THE LITTLE MINISTER"

Author:
Sir James M. Barrie

Director:
David Smith

Six Reel Drama

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SYNOPSIS

Gavin Dishart, newly appointed minister to the village of Thrums in Scotland, arrives with his mother to take charge of the parish. The residents are poverty-stricken weavers, who have had riots against the manufacturers and have more than once repulsed attacks from the constables and the soldiers. They are deeply religious. Dishart, despite his youth, makes a profound impression, particularly in the case of Rob Dow, the village drunkard. Dow becomes his fast friend. In the woods near Thrums, there has been seen a young woman, a sort of gypsy - whom the natives call "The Egyptian". She is really Babbie, the ward of the rich Lord Rintoul, whose castle is nearby. Lord Rintoul found her as a baby, deserted by the gypsies, and reared her. There was always the understanding that eventually Babbie should be Rintoul's wife. Babbie, at the castle, learns of a raid by the soldiers, and her sympathies being with the townspeople, she warns them and urges them to fight. Dishart, urges them to peacefully submit. Babbie's words are given more heed to, and Dishart finds himself angered at the girl. Capt. Halliwell has Babbie captured for giving the warning, but she cleverly escapes, and succeeds in getting by the soldiers in the village with Dishart's aid. Dishart finds himself unable to inform on the girl who poses as his wife in order to get by the guard. He hides her in his garden for the night and she writes a note which she places in his Bible. Dishart, announcing the text on the following Sunday, finds the note from the Egyptian in which she asks if his actions of the previous night do not constitute a Scotch marriage. Dishart greatly disturbed, preaches against the wiles of women. Dishart and Dr. McQueen go to the hut of Nanny Webster to take her to the poorhouse. Babbie appears and takes the part of the old woman, offering to pay for her keep. She and Dishart chat and their mutual interest grows. Many more meetings occur in which Dishart and Babbie find themselves in love. Rob Dow notices the meetings and, fearing for the safety of his "little minister" warns Babbie to stay away from him. The townspeople begin to gossip, although the identity of the girl is not yet known to anybody but McQueen and Dow. Meantime, Rintoul becomes impatient and demands that Babbie set the date for their wedding. Dishart proclaims his love. Babbie tells him it is hopeless. She meets Micah Dow, little son of the drunkard, who tells her what her attentions mean to the career of the minister. The villagers would stone him from their midst if they knew. Babbie sees that she must give up Dishart, goes back and sets the date for the wedding with Rintoul. Dishart searches in vain for her for days.

The countryside is threatened with a drought. On a certain night Dishart sets a time for a prayer-meeting. It is an important service. This happens to be the wedding night of Babbie and Rintoul. She is being prepared in bridal garb. Rob Dow has an argument over the minister in the public house and Dishart hearing, tries to interfere. He is knocked senseless. Gossip ~~spreads~~ spreads that he is badly wounded, perhaps killed. The gossip reaches Babbie who rushes from the castle to be with her sweetheart. Greatly angered, Rintoul follows. Babbie arrives at the hut of Nanny Webster, where Micah learns that Dishart has been wounded. Micah goes to the church as Dishart arrives there and informs the minister that Babbie is at Nanny's. Dishart forgets all about the important meeting and hurries to Nanny's house. There for the first time, Dishart learns Babbie's story, and that she is that night to be married. He insists that she marry him, and without delay. In the storm that has come upon them, they hasten to a gypsy camp nearby and are married. Meantime Lord Rintoul hurries in pursuit, and the villagers enraged at the actions of their minister, witness the wedding but not in time to interrupt. Rintoul attacks Dishart. Rob Dow, crazed with murderous intent, drags Babbie into the woods. Dishart believes that Rintoul has her and follows him. Rintoul falls from a bridge into a swift current, where he catches hold of a branch of a tree above the water. His leg has been broken, and he is about to let go, when Dishart sees his plight and braves the torrent to save him. Dishart is now in a similar plight. A rope thrown to him - he is unable to catch. The villagers, seeing his peril, change their attitude. Rob Dow permits Babbie to escape and appears on the scene, swimming out with the rope and giving his life to save that of the minister and Rintoul. Rintoul gives up Babbie, and she returns to Dishart. The villagers welcome Dishart and his bride to their hearts, and fatherless Micah Dow is adopted by the minister.

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